

Appl. No. 10/518,139
Attorney Docket No. Serie 5935
Amdt. dated August 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 6, 2006

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In complete response to the Office Action dated March 6, 2006, on the above identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1 – 17 are pending in this application.

With this amendment claims 1 – 17 are cancelled and claims 18 - 42 are added to further define the invention.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicants thank the Examiner for giving notice that claims 6, 10, and 14 - 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections:

Claims 3 and 7 currently stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being improper multiple dependent form. The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations this objection is now moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 - 2, 4 - 5, 8, 11 - 13, and 16 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al, (US 3,302,453) in view of Iwamoto et al. (US 6,138,514). The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations, the basis for this rejection is now moot.

Furthermore, the Applicants contend that as newly presented claims 18 and 38 contain all the limitations of previous claims 6 and 14, which were deemed allowable, claims 18 and 38 should likewise be allowed. For these reasons the Applicants respectfully contend that the basis for this rejection deserves reconsideration.

Claims 9 and 17 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al, (US 3,302,453) in view of Iwamoto et al. (US 6,138,514),

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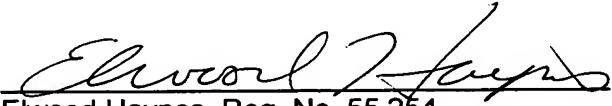
and in further view of Alexander et al. (US 5,814,731). The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations, the basis for this rejection is now moot.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 7, 2006


Elwood Haynes, Reg. No. 55,254

Air Liquide
2700 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1800
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 624-8954 Phone
(713) 624-8950 Fax

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 7th day of August, 2006.


Diana Guzman